(i) Too much Government control and consequently lack of members participation.

(ii) Structural inadequacies, absence of affective purchase policy and inventory management as well as absence of professional management; and

(iii) Restoration of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of consumer cooperatives in the country.

The Report on the Expert Committee is at examination stage.

Mismanagement in Super Bazar

6721. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Governments notice that the management of Super Bazar has failed to function on Sound administrative and financial parameters;

(b) if so, the details of the mismanagement which came to Governments notice;

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the working of Super Bazar and make it accountable in its functioning to Government and Parliament; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Super Bazar has improved its sales turnover and financial position during the last few years. Its sales has increased from 9784.01 lakhs in 1991-92 to Rs. 11520.34 lakhs in 1993-94 and its net profit has increased from Rs. 9.33 lakhs in 1991-92 to Rs. 41.65 lakhs in 1993-94.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Allowance introduced by Super Bazar after formation of National Industrial Tribunal

6722. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the allowances introduced or revised by Super Bazar for its employees after formation of the National Industrial Tribunal on the same line as in Kendriya Bhandar giving details for each category.

(b) whether permission of the Tribunal was obtained while revising the allowances;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) which are the categories deprived of benefits of such revision and whether any representations were received from the employees or their unions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are two different cooperative societies registered under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act and do not come under the jurisdiction of the National Industrial Tribunal.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Protecting rural consumers against Misleading packets

6723. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to protect the rural consumers against the sale of consumer goods in misleading packets by big companies under the revised rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review these rules; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to incorporate the public views in the proposed amendments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS ASD PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Provision to protect consumers against sale of consumer goods in misleading packets exists under various legislations. Some of the legislations are listed below:

(1) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977.

(2) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(3) The MRTP Act, 1969.

(4) The Drugs Price Control Order 1995.

(5) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(c) and (d) As far as Standards of weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities Rules 1977 and the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are concerned, which are administered by this Ministry, their review depending on the need, is a continual process. The Ministry takes into consideration public views before making amendments to any of the provisions.

The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and the General of Health Services have informed that they also take into consideration public opinion before amendingthe provision of the legislations administered by them.

Irritants for consumers despite consumer consciousness

6724. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5049 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of fast developing consumer consciousness there are certain common irritants for consumers e.g. buses plying on roads with disregard of pedestrians and road sense, sale of certain products in packets without giving any relevant details, irregular and inadequate supply of essential items through P.D.S.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove these irritants in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) The consumer movement is a continuous process and the concerned Ministries/Departments of Central and the State Governments and the voluntary consumer organisations endeavour to work in coordination with each other to remove such common irrtants to consumers. Sufficient rules and regulations are enforced by concerned Ministries/Departments to take care of many of the consumer problems such as sale of packaged commodities without giving relevant information, road safety, etc. Besides, all the State Governments and Union Territories are asked to closely monitor and ensure efficient and smooth functioning of public distribution systems. Central assistance is also provided for purchase of vans and construction of godowns to ensure regular and adequate supply of items supplied through Public Distribution Systems.